

Diamond's Edge

Did you know ... you may only smoke in approved locations on base and no smoking is permitted within 50 feet of all entrances to facilities on Misawa AB? Ref: 35TH FW Instruction 36-2901 3.1

Source: Misawa First Sergeants

Misawa Air Base DUI/DWI Hitboard

Total number of
DUI/DWI incidents
at Misawa
this year

0

as of Thursday

Number of days
since the last
DUI/DWI at
Misawa

42

as of Thursday

Last DUI/DWI: 35th Maintenance Squadron

Source: 35th Security Forces Squadron

Weekend Weather



Saturday
Isolated
snow/rain
H 35/L 25



Sunday
Isolated
drizzle
H 38/L 28

Source: 35th OSS Weather Flight

Northern Light

Proudly Serving the People of Misawa Air Base, Japan

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Feb. 7, 2003

Leaders remember AF heroes

The following is a joint message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

"On Saturday our nation and the world lost seven courageous, talented individuals when the Space Shuttle Columbia Orbiter (STS-107) experienced catastrophic failure 15 minutes prior to landing at Kennedy Space Center, Florida. Among these brave astronauts were two officers from the Air Force family: Colonel Rick Husband, mission commander from Amarillo, Texas; and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, payload commander from Spokane, Washington.

"On behalf of the men and women of the United States Air Force, we offer our deepest condolences to our Air Force family members Evelyn Husband and her children Laura and Matthew, and Sandra Anderson and her children Sydney and Kaycee.

"We stand together with all Americans in offering our prayers for the families, friends, and co-workers of those lost in this tragic accident. We will never forget their great contributions to our nation and the world. While we are deeply saddened by this tragic loss, we are also very proud of the Air Force team that has tirelessly

assisted in the response to this national tragedy.

"Air Force Space Command units from Peterson, Buckley, and Patrick Air Force Bases provided tracking data as part of the accident investigation. Tanker units from Birmingham, Ala., and fighter squadrons from Texas and Louisiana supported a number of search and recovery actions. We've also flown communications support out of Texas and Oklahoma and provided airlift support from McGuire AFB in New Jersey.

"Barksdale AFB provided part of the Initial Response Teams supporting the Texas Department of Public Safety in recovery efforts, and continues to function as FEMA's Consequence Management Operations Center and NASA Shuttle Recovery Center. The Air Force family will continue to offer support to the astronaut's families, DoD, NASA, FEMA, and state organizations.

"We grieve for our friends and co-workers, but we also join the rest of the world in celebrating seven lives well lived and promise to continue to support the space program's noble mission of discovery.

"May God bless the grieving families, our men and women in uniform, and the United States of America." (Air Force News Service)



Graphic by Leslie Benito

Navy mourns three of its own

Acting Secretary of the Navy, the Hon. Susan Livingstone, released a statement Feb. 1 following the accident, saying "Today's tragic events have deeply saddened all Americans and people around the world. The astronauts of the Space Shuttle Columbia represent the best in humanity. The courage, service and sacrifice of these explorers are an inspiration to us all. As we grieve for the loss of all aboard, the Navy mourns the loss of three of our family who flew aboard Columbia. To their families we offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers.

"Capt. Dave Brown, Cmdr. Laurel Clark and Cmdr. Willie McCool will be always remembered for their bravery and their commitment to their nation. May God Bless each of the crew of Columbia and their families. The men and women of the Navy and Marine Corps are with you."

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark echoed the acting secretary's comments, saying "Today our Navy family mourns the loss of three of our shipmates. Capt. David Brown, Cmdr. Laurel Clark and Cmdr. William McCool dedicated

See 'Mourns,' continued on Page 4.

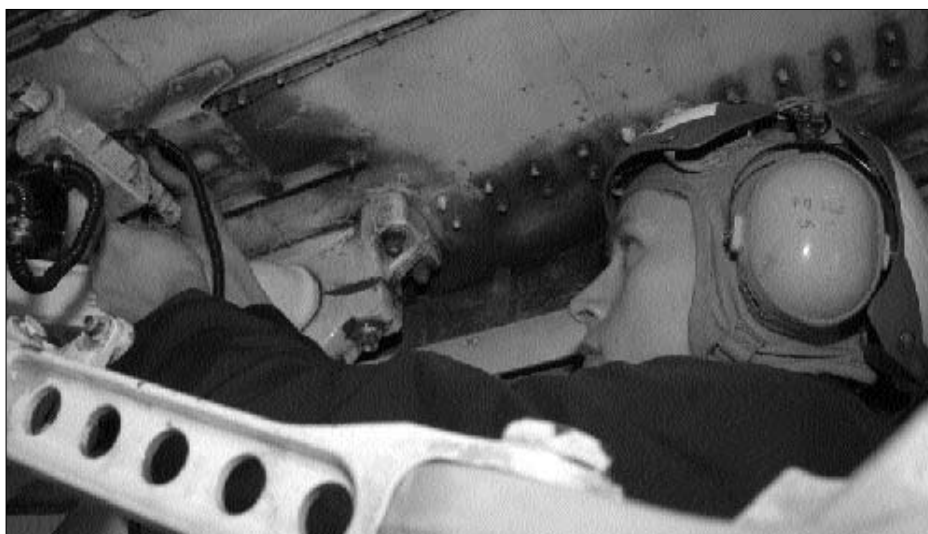
Nine here earn 0-5 promotion

Officials at the Air Force Personnel Center recently announced the results of several promotion boards, with nine Misawa officers earning promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Misawa promotees include Maj. Martin Alexis, Kelly Coleman, Robert Dawson, Robert Gallagher, Hugh Hanlon, Stuart Lum, Ronald Patrick, Christopher Robinson and Donald Wingate.

The boards convened at the Air Force Personnel Center (Randolph Air Force Base, Texas) Nov. 12 and Dec. 3. The colonel's board considered 167 officers, the lieutenant colonel's board considered 8,632 officers and the JAG captain's board considered 20.

The entire list is posted on the World Wide Web on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. (AFPC News Service)



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Evelyn Haywood

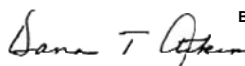
Steady hands

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Ostensen, Naval Air Facility Misawa, installs downlock and scissor switches for the ground air sensing system on a

P-3C Orion aircraft. Petty Officer Ostensen is assigned to Patrol Squadron NINE (VP-9) currently deployed to Misawa.

Commander's Action Line (226-3700) Please Use It

The Action Line provides "direct communication" between you and me. This valuable open channel has but one purpose — to make our community better. Your input of ideas, concerns, highlighting problems and suggested solutions are the lifeblood to building a stronger foundation where our families thrive and our mission succeeds. There are many dedicated professionals at Misawa — officer, noncommissioned officer and civilian — who are experts in their respective fields. Please offer them the opportunity to answer your question in concert with your unit chain of command. They share the same vision for Misawa as I do. However, those concerns that do come to the Action Line have my personal attention.



Brig. Gen. Dana T. Atkins
35th Fighter Wing and
Misawa Air Base
installation commander



Who to call for assistance

Air Force Aid Society ... 226-9316	Facility maintenance 226-3693	Law enforcement desk ... 226-4358
American Red Cross ... 226-3016	Family day care 226-2273	Library 226-4083
Auto skills center 226-4654	Family services 226-3665	Main exchange manager .. 222-7410
Bowling center 222-7731	Family support center .. 226-4735	Military clothing sales 222-8709
Chaplain 226-4630	HAWC 226-6653	Officers' club 226-2016
Commissary manager .. 226-3823	Hospital 226-3506	Pass and registration 226-3995
Community center 226-4128	Housing maintenance .. 226-2327	Teen center 226-2170
Education center 226-4201	Housing manager 226-2394	35th Services Squadron .. 226-3008
Enlisted club 222-9449	Housing office 226-3200	Youth center 226-3200

Righting wrongs, ensuring justice: inspector general

by Master Sgt. Mark Witte

35th Fighter Wing Inspector General's office

If you've ever felt that you've been wronged in your job, seen someone abuse their authority, or observed fraud, waste or abuse happening in your unit, there is something you can do about it. Using your chain of command is the most effective and efficient means of resolving these problems. Your chain of command consists of your supervisor, flight chief, first sergeant and commander. However, in some cases the chain of command won't work. It's when that happens that you need to consider contacting the inspector general. Below are answers to some common questions you may have about the IG complaint system.

The IG is an independent, impartial grievance channel that ensures the concerns of all complainants, that are in the best interests of the AF, are addressed through objective fact-finding. Our independence from all other chains of command means we can objectively investigate complaints on base. IG offices are not able to investigate issues concerning base commanders. When the complaint lies in the higher chain of command we must transfer the request into the hands of a higher IG office.

To ensure the IG can complete credible, objective investigations we are given the authority to look at all Air Force documents, systems of records, and computer files relevant to an investigation. We can

also direct those involved to give interviews in order to get a complete and objective picture of the facts and the case.

Going through the IG complaint program when there is reprisal, abuse of authority, or gross fraud, waste and abuse happening in your unit is recommended if the problem isn't being corrected by the chain of command. Additionally, the IG offers assistance with any problem a person needs help with. We are not just limited to investigating wrongdoing.

We also offer assistance, help or objective advice on issues on which there is no clear violation of law, policy, or regulation. We have a complete list of resources available and if the IG is not the appropriate avenue for your problem, we will know who is and can assist you with getting in touch with the right people.

You have the right to contact the IG, military equal opportunity or your congressman at any time. You also have the right to be protected from reprisal for lodging a complaint with the IG, MEO or your congressman. You have the right to be informed of the findings of your complaint, but this does not apply if you choose to be anonymous.

In order to file a complaint, you can call Misawa's IG representatives: myself or Lt. Col. Damian McCarthy, at 226-3692. You can also find out more about the local IG complaint program including links to our email at: <https://www2.misawa.af.mil/orgs/35fw/ig/index.htm>.

Keeping the banner flying

■ Editor's note: This commentary mirrors the commander's weekly update on AFN Misawa.

by Brig. Gen. Dana T. Atkins

35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Installation commander

As you may know, the Air Force Chief of Staff recently announced that deployed airmen supporting our Air and Space Expeditionary Force will remain longer than the targeted three-month rotation. Specifically, active-duty personnel deployed with, or deploying in support of AEF 7/8, will remain in-place until further notice. The need for additional force is part of a build-up of air power in southwest Asia. This is to achieve national security objectives if directed by our president.

We can all take pride in the fact our 35th Fighter Wing men and women are doing what we have all been trained and prepared to do. Our airmen are truly 'franchise players' and I'm confident they will make monumental contributions as our nation continues to successfully defend American values and freedoms.

We all need to pull together as one team to support our deployed airmen, and our family members who remain here at Misawa. My job, as your commander, is to make your life as uncomplicated as possible — and I intend to do just that. I encourage you to use our outstanding support agencies and personnel.

Our family support center, chaplains and first sergeants stand ready to answer any questions you may have and assist you in any way. Our Spouses Together And Ready are available at any time to lend a helping hand — and please don't forget your chain of command which includes direct contact with me.

I have never been more proud of our nation's military. Our professionals in uniform who are in southwest Asia are proudly waving our banner — they are also bringing resolve to the doorsteps of those who would seek to inflict harm on our allies and us. I also thank you, our family members, whose dedication and commitment are



unparalleled. Without you, we simply could not accomplish our mission. Again, thanks for all you do, stay safe and take care of each other.

Child-care fees decrease

by Melissa M. Stockstill
35th Services Squadron

Every year the Department of Defense reviews the fees charged for child care, with costs typically increasing. However, this year is different as fees at Misawa have gone down for many families.

Until recently, the Family Member Programs Flight based all fees on total family income. This meant that families with incomes up to \$23,000 were placed into Category 1 - the least expensive tier. This year, DoD expanded the upper range of income from \$23k to \$28k and more families now qualify for Category 1 fees.

"The annual review gave us a chance to decrease fees for several families. By increasing the Category 1 range, the 12 families who now fall under this tier will save \$45 per month in fees," said

Sara Jones, Family Member Programs Flight chief.

Dual military couples are also getting a break. Previously, both active duty members' BAH was included in determining total family income. Now, the Child Development Centers will use only the senior member's rate, which can save some families up to \$53 per month.

Finally, while many other programs are increasing fees, Misawa is not. "By operating smoothly and efficiently we have managed to avoid the fee increases being seen at many other bases. It is a credit to our team that we have been able to benefit our customers so much by holding the line on our fees," she said.

If interested in more information, pick up a FAQ sheet at the Yoiko and Zeamer Child Care Facilities or call 226-4666/2419.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

Good to go

Staff. Sgt. Rebekah Virtue, 35th Medical Operations Squadron Immunization Clinic, administers a flu shot to Mr. Dan Hardbarger, AAFES new car sales. Flu shots will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the BX entrance. All people requesting a shot must have a valid ID card.

Misawa announces 2002 award winners



**35th FW and Misawa AB
Airman of the Year
Airman 1st Class
Abby Young
35th FW Public Affairs**



**Misawa AB NCO of
the Year
Staff Sgt.
Julie Van Tassel
301st Intelligence Squadron**



**35th FW and Misawa AB
First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt.
Scot Ashton
35th Medical Group**



**35th FW and Misawa AB
U.S. Civilian of the Year
Jon Wright
35th Mission Support
Squadron**



**35th FW NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt.
Christine Daniels
35th FW Comptroller
Squadron**



**35th FW and Misawa AB
Senior NCO of the Year
Senior Master Sgt.
Ronald Brown
35th Civil Engineer Squadron**



**35th FW and Misawa AB
CGO of the Year
1st Lt. Dara Flowers
35th FW Manpower and
Organization**



**35th FW and Misawa AB
Japanese Civilian of the Year
Hideki Sato
35th Civil Engineer Squadron
Fire Protection Flight**

The 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Air Base named its 2002 Annual Award winners during a banquet Jan. 31 in the Tohoku Enlisted Club.

In addition to the winners named in the photos at left, **Airman 1st Class Justin McCarty**, 301st Intelligence Squadron was named base Honor Guard Member of the Year, **Capt. David Lyons**, 14th Fighter Squadron, was named Flight Commander of the Year and **Melissa Beard** received the Joan Orr Award as Misawa's Spouse of the Year.

Base winners advance to compete at 5th Air Force later this month.

Northern Light

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Deputy chief of public affairs Capt. Miki Gillon
Superintendent, public affairs Tech. Sgt. Carrie Bernard
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Northern Light staff writer Airman 1st Class Abby Young
Photography 35th Communications Squadron Visual Information Flight

The deadline for submission of articles to the Northern Light editor is Thursday at 4:30 p.m. for publication in the next available issue.

All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the Northern Light are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

People who have a story or photo idea can e-mail northern.light@misawa.af.mil or call 226-3814.

Valentine's Day Special

Looking for a way to whisper sweet nothings into the ear of your special someone? Do it on the pages of the Northern Light.

For the second-straight year, the Northern Light will run a feature page with Valentine's Day messages. Send all messages to northern.light@misawa.af.mil. Submission deadline is 4:30 p.m. Monday. See the feature next week on Page 5.



New command chief welcomes challenges

by Airman 1st Class
Abby Young

35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office

Even though he's been on station for only a few weeks, Misawa's new command chief master sergeant plans to jump right into his role of leadership, advisor and friend.

Chief Master Sgt. Frank Smith, 35th Fighter Wing command chief, intends to put enthusiasm for his job and the community directly into action by serving Misawa's troops to the fullest of his capabilities.

"I'm very excited to be here and to be able to work with Brig. Gen. Atkins," he said. "I've already found the people at Misawa very friendly."

Quality of life and education — not just for the enlisted side of the house, but for everyone — are two of the top priorities for Chief Smiths.

"Quality of life is one of my main focused, for everyone: enlisted, officers, Department of Defense civilians, dependents and spouses," he said. "This is a generation of technology. I'd like to see more of that technology brought to the troops."

One of the ways Chief Smith would like to see this done is by getting better computer systems. Because this generation is highly

interested in computers and video games, getting better, more updated, equipment is a big part of improving quality of life, he said.

One of the first jobs this proactive chief plans to tackle is upgrading base facilities, including Misawa's community center. He's looking forward to seeing a more modern appealing look to the community center and other places that offer support and entertainment to Misawa's families and unaccompanied airmen, sailors, soldiers and Marines.

In addition to quality of life, education is another issue at the heart of this 25-year career airman. Holding three associate degrees, one bachelor's degree and a master's degree, he calls himself one of the 'biggest advocates of professional military education.'

"Education is a big part of being a good leader," said Chief Smith. Airmen today are more educated and goal-oriented. With 100 percent tuition assistance and many opportunities available to further their military education, airmen today have the keys to success right at their fingertips, he said.

Chief Smith hopes he can apply his experiences from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., where he was the com-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Ward (left), 35th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight, welcomes Chief Smith with honorary Misawa AB Fire Department patches during roll call at Fire Station #1. The Chief spent his first few weeks here getting acquainted with the Misawa people.

mand first sergeant for the United States Transportation Command. Having served as the single point of contact for the command's Element Commanders from all military branches, his experiences will apply to his unique position of working here with members of the Air Force, Navy, Army and Marine Corps.

"It's important to help troops understand competing goals," he

said. "I also want to help educate people about the change with the AEF rotations and how important it is to be flexible (in the military)."

During his tour at Misawa, this 24 hour-a-day/seven-day-a-week command chief looks forward to staying fit, diving in head first to every challenge and working with the community in 'this culture of excellence.'



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Brown

Total control

Misawa emergency response personnel take control of the scene of a simulated chemical spill during the Major Accident Response Exercise Jan. 29. The exercise tested the base's ability to respond and control the scene of an accident.

'Mourns'

themselves to a lifetime of service. Their sacrifice, commitment and passion for excellence are personal examples to all of their shipmates who are privileged to wear the cloth of our nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our fallen shipmates, as well as the families of all the astronauts who made the ultimate sacrifice today."

Brown, 46, was a naval aviator and flight surgeon. He served as mission specialist 1 for STS-107. Selected by NASA in April 1996, Brown was making his first spaceflight.

Clark, 41, a naval flight surgeon, had been selected for promotion to captain. She was mission specialist 4 on STS-107. Selected by NASA

in April 1996, Clark was making her first spaceflight.

McCool, 41, was a former test pilot. He served as pilot for STS-107. Selected by NASA in April 1996, McCool was making his first spaceflight.

Columbia's mission STS-107 was dedicated to research in physical, life and space sciences, conducted in approximately 80 separate experiments, comprised of hundreds of samples and test points. The seven astronauts worked 24 hours a day, in two alternating shifts.

For related news, visit the Chief of Naval Personnel Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/cnp. (Story courtesy of Navy News Service)

Continued from Page 1.

Briefs

■ **Shuttle bus changes** — Misawa's shuttle busses begin a new schedule Monday. The new Red and Blue Shuttle Bus schedules are posted in the bus stop shelters and are also available at the Misawa Post Office, Misawa Inn and on busses. For more information, call the 35th Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Dispatch at 226-3328/4062.

■ **Chief icebreaker** — The Enlisted Community Organization is holding an icebreaker for Chief Master Sgt. Frank Smith, new 35th Fighter Wing command chief master sergeant, and his wife Terry at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Tohoku Enlisted Club ballroom. Attire is casual (no jeans). For more information, call Ms. Athena Crabtree at 226-5677.

■ **Officers' Fellowship Retreat** — There will be a Winter Ski/Snowshoe Retreat Feb. 15 - 17 at the Aomori Christian Center. This is open to all officers (and equivalent) and their families. For more information, call Capt. Saxon Gilbert at 222-5645 or Capt. Ben Hollo at 222-7822.

■ **Japanese language course** — There is a beginner's Japanese class 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Feb. 25. The class costs ¥2000, plus books, and meets in Hachinohe. For more information, call Ms. Corinne Vail at 53-2664 or e-mail corkyvail@hotmail.com.

■ **Dental Assistance Program** — Applications are accepted for the Dental Assistance Program through March 3. Class start date is March 24. For applications or more information, call 226-3016.

Second Lt. Henry Flipper was West Point Military Academy's first black graduate. During his four years at the academy, he endured 'silent treatment' and unfair treatment that ultimately led to his dismissal from the Army.



Courtesy of www.dtic.mil

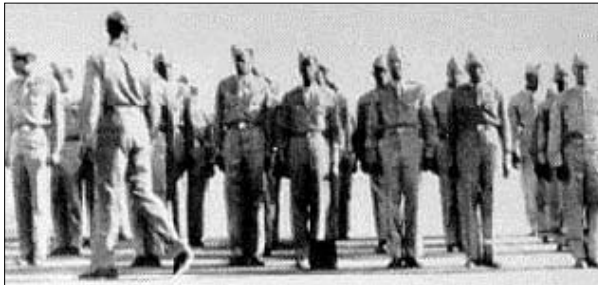


Photo courtesy of wwpafb.af.mil

A formation of Tuskegee Airmen line up for inspection. The Army's first all black air corps unit, the 99th Pursuit Squadron, was born in Jan. 1941 in Tuskegee, Ala. These pilots never lost a bomber they were escorting to enemy fire.

African-American Heritage Month Events

- ◆ Children's Day — Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Hangar 949
- ◆ Gospel Concert — Feb. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the base chapel
- ◆ Bake Sale — Feb. 22 starting at 9 a.m. at the Base Exchange
- ◆ Closing Banquet — Mar. 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Mutsu Officers' Club

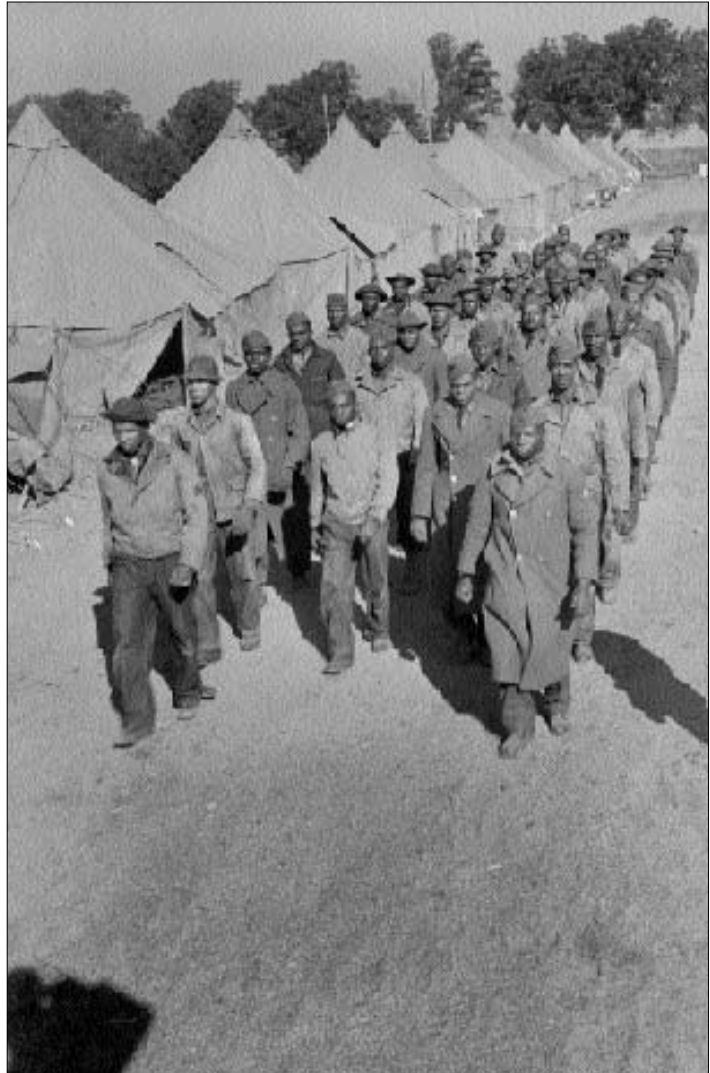


Photo courtesy of army.mil

Soldiers of the 24th Infantry, Co. L, march in formation Nov. 11, 1941. This all black unit, along with the 9th and 10th Cavalries and the 25th Infantry, gained fame as the Buffalo Soldiers.

Wanting a chance, dying to serve

U.S. military's first African American troops demonstrated much more than human spirit, potential

African Americans have served in every American war, starting with the Revolutionary War. As a matter of fact, military service has been a powerful weapon in the pursuit of social improvement for individuals and African Americans as a group. But it has not been easy.

In 1866, the United States congress established an army to take on the challenges of the westward expansion of the country. Parts of that army were the 9th and 10th Cavalries and the 24th and 25th Infantries. These units were comprised of black soldiers who later gained fame as the Buffalo Soldiers.

In 1876, the 10th Cavalry received an officer named 2nd Lt. Henry Flipper. He was the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

During his four years at West Point, he was given the silent treatment. None of the other cadets spoke to him except in the performance

of official duties. But Flipper was determined to weather all challenges.

He stated that he and other black cadets wanted "to be left alone to our own resources for study and improvement, for enjoyment in whatever way we chose to seek it ... we care not for social recognition. We did not expect it."

Flipper persevered at West Point; he endured unfair treatment on active duty that eventually led to his discharge from the Army. He went on to a successful career in mining and surveying.

In January 1941, the Army announced the formation of its first all black air corps unit, the 99th Pursuit Squadron. These men would become fighter pilots. Many consider this to be the most challenging type of military flying.

An army airfield in Tuskegee, Ala. became the center for training these black pilots, and they became known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

The activity at Tuskegee was first called an experiment because there were many who believed that blacks didn't have the "right stuff" to fly and be fighter pilots.

But the Tuskegee Airmen proved them wrong. They never lost a bomber they were escorting to enemy fire.

The Tuskegee Airmen fought for the right to fly. They fought for the right to deploy to Europe. And they fought for the right to engage in combat.

People pause each year in February to celebrate African American history. But everyone has a history. This is a glimpse into African American history and the institutional history of the military.

However, the dignity of the human spirit and human potential are really the true lessons of history. It can be a lesson that allows every person to see the shoulders on which they stand. (Courtesy of www.af.mil).



Warrior of the Week

**Staff Sgt.
Cristine Cox**

Organization
35th Medical
Operations Squadron
Duty Title
Multiservice Flight
assistant NCO in
charge
Home
Oak Harbor, Wash.



"Staff Sgt. Cox is definitely a true warrior. She was chosen as the lead medic for Cobra Gold 2002 and is the only medical technician of 35th MDG trained to augment the Expeditionary Medical Support contingency, Elemendorf AFB. Her outstanding patient care, professionalism and community involvement earned her the 35th MDG NCO of the Year Award."

Master Sergeant Theresa Chan
Multiservice Flight NCO in charge



Student of the Week

Jason Barkdoll
Age 5

School
Misawa Catholic
Kindergarten
Hometown
Durand, Ill.
Favorite Subject
Arts and Drawing



"To Jason, there is no language barrier between Japanese and English. He's currently into creating lots of different things with building blocks and enjoys drawing. When we participated in the Fall Music Festival in Hachinohe, Jason quickly learned to play the piano and was a crowd-pleaser."

Hiroimi Motomura
Kindergarten teacher

'Heir Born'

The following parents are announcing the births of their children at the base hospital:

DYER — Maj. Chris and Nicki Dyer, a daughter, Grayce Katherine, Jan. 17.

TJADEN — Staff Sgt. Steven and Amy Tjaden, a son, Michael James, Jan. 17.

COPELAND — Airman 1st Class Justin and Tara Copeland, a son, Dallas Waylon, Jan. 2.

Submit birth announcements to the *Northern Light* at northern.light@misawa.af.mil.

Military Retirees

The next meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees Association is 5 p.m. Tuesday in the



Tohoku Enlisted Club
Longhorn Lounge.
For more information, call
226-2745/4428.

Security necessary with military mail

World events have Air Force postal officials re-emphasizing the need for security when using the military mail system.

In particular, postal officials are concerned that airmen might not use an appropriate amount of discretion when distributing their overseas mailing addresses.

To reduce the vulnerability of using the mail system as a means to attack military people abroad, the Department of Defense officially suspended all "any servicemember"-type mail programs in late 2000. Those programs allowed the general public to address letters and care packages to "any servicemember," and those items would in turn be delivered to military people serving overseas.

Those programs, according to DoD officials, were eliminated because they created an avenue to introduce biological, chemical or explosive materials into the military mail system, putting people in danger. At the same time, it left the sources of such material virtually untraceable.

Air Force officials have identified other potential vulnerabilities in the system. Those include Web sites that ask for overseas mailing addresses, publicly available sign-up sheets for phone cards or other goods to be sent overseas, said Bob Eichholz, the director of Air Force postal policy.

It also includes local community efforts to gather up homemade goods and materials that can be sent from anonymous individuals to an APO address provided by a well-meaning service-member.

"These are all well-intended programs to support the military," Eichholz said. "In the past those programs worked well, but today the same programs open us up to attacks from unknown sources."

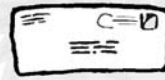
"We have to take as many safeguards as we can to protect our mail system."

Postal officials recommend that people be as prudent with their APO addresses as possible — limiting where they post their address and to whom they hand it out.

"We recommend ... that members not just give out and advertise their APO addresses," Eichholz said. "Keep it for your business purposes and for your correspondence, but don't advertise it on a Web site."

He said there are some Web sites asking for people's addresses. On other Web sites, people leave their address to get a pen pal.

"We recommend people don't do that," Eichholz said. "You don't know where that mail is coming from or who has access to that address." (Story courtesy Air Force News Service)



Heart of balloons

This year people can get their sweetheart a Valentine's Day gift that won't wilt or die — a balloon bouquet from BalloonTime in the Mokuteki Community Center. Orders are accepted through 7 p.m. Thursday. Customers can pick up bouquets or delivery service is available for a \$3 fee. (Deliveries cannot be made to Security Hill, the flightline or any secure area.) If interested in volunteering to deliver the bouquets, call 226-4128.



Coast Guard's leave program popular with sailors

DOD News

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

A 2002 General Accounting Office report states that the Defense Department has lost female personnel and will lose them increasingly unless it improves new-parent benefits.

The report, GAO-02-935, "Active Duty Benefits Reflect Changing Demographics, but Opportunities Exist to Improve," is dated September 2002. It makes specific mention of the Coast Guard's "Care for Newborn Children" program as a possible prototype for DoD.

The program allows parents to leave the service for up to two years without pay and benefits to care for a newborn child, said Cmdr. Catherine Haines, a policy adviser in the Coast Guard Office of Leadership and Diversity.

After the leave, parents are eligible to return to active duty at the same grade they held when they left. Many of the Coast Guardsmen who've participated have returned to active duty, she said.

Haines talked about the sabbatical program during the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services meeting in Arlington, Va., in mid-January. Founded in 1951, DACOW-ITS is comprised of 13 civilians from throughout the country who make recommendations to the secretary of defense about improving the quality of life and opportunities for women in uniform.

In May 2000, Coast Guardsmen were given another quality of life and morale booster with the establishment of the Temporary Separation program, which was modeled after the newborn program. Service members can request up to a two-year sabbatical for caring for a newborn child.

"Both programs are open to male and female active duty personnel," Haines said. "Service members can use the Temporary Separation program for such things as furthering their education or caring for elderly or sick parents. Or, it can give members ... a chance to pursue opportunities outside the service." (Story courtesy DefenseLink)

Ask Shuko



Q: I heard about a festival where people throw beans. What is this festival about?

A: On February 3rd, an annual event called "Setsubun" was celebrated throughout Japan. The tradition on this day is the scattering of "mame maki," or roasted soybeans, inside the house to chase out the "oni," or evil spirits, and welcome in happiness. The person who throws the beans is a man from the household who becomes 12, 24, 36, 38, 60, 72, 84, 96, 108, or 120 years old during the year in which Setsubun falls upon is chosen to be the "toshi otoko," or "year man." If you have any topic or questions about Japanese culture, give me a call at 226-3075 or e-mail the Northern Light office at northern.light@misawa.af.mil.

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School Lunch Menus



Edgren High Monday

Chicken pattie sandwich, rice pilaf, peas, fruit cocktail, pudding, milk

Tuesday

Ravioli with meat sauce, corn, baked roll, apple turnover, milk

Wednesday

Hamburger on a bun, pretzels, green beans, fruit, Rice Krispie bar, milk

Thursday

Cheese gordito, mixed vegetables, fruit, graham crackers, milk

Feb. 14

Nachos supreme, fruit, oatmeal raisin cookie, milk

■ **Editor's note:** High school students can choose between the elementary school menu and another selection.

School Square

Cummings and Sollars Elementary

Monday

Barbeque pork riblet sandwich, rice pilaf, peas, fruit, pudding, milk

Tuesday

Cheese pizza, carrot and celery sticks, corn, apple turnover, milk

Wednesday

Lasagna, garlic toast, green beans, fruit, Rice Krispie bar, milk

Thursday

Popeye's chicken fries, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables baked roll, fruit

Feb. 14

Corn dogs, potato wedges, garden salad, fruit, oatmeal raisin cookie, milk

■ **Editor's note:** For complete menus visit: <http://odin.aafes.com/nutrition/nsmen.htm>

Education Opportunities



■ **TROA Scholarships** — The Retired Officers Association has a scholarship available at www.troa.org. Applications are due by March 1. For more information call the family support center at 226-4735.

■ **SAT** — The SAT is offered Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. Exam is for military members only. For more information or to schedule a testing seat, call the education office at 226-4201.

■ **Scholarships for high schoolers** — Misawa's Officer's Spouses Club offers scholarships to graduating Edgren High School seniors. Application deadline is March 7.

Grissom Dining Facility

Today

Dinner — Sweet Italian sausage, lasagna, spaghetti

Saturday

Brunch — Cajun meatloaf, crispy baked chicken, ribeye steak

Dinner — Fish almandine, pork chops with mushroom gravy, stir-fry chicken with broccoli

Sunday

Brunch — Chicken breast parmesan, sauerbraten, tuna and noodles

Dinner — Fried shrimp, ginger barbecued chicken, spinach lasagna

Monday

Lunch — Baked chicken, simmered knockwurst, Swiss steak with tomato sauce

Dinner — Roast turkey, baked canned ham, fish and fries

Tuesday

Lunch — Grilled Salisbury steak, onion-lemon baked fish, yakisoba

Dinner — Barbecued beef cubes, paprika beef, pork chop suey

Wednesday

Lunch — Reuben sandwich, beef porcupines, Caribbean jerk chicken, chicken enchiladas

Dinner — Country style steak, fried chicken, pita pizzas

Thursday

Lunch — Liver with onions, orange-spiced pork chops, tempura fried fish

Dinner — Pepper steak, Mr. Z's baked chicken, ginger pot roast



What's Happening

Community Events

■ **Champagne Brunch** — Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Tohoku Enlisted Club ballroom. All ranks welcome.

■ **Concert** — Misawa Chapel Inspirational Community Choir concert, Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the Mokuteki Ballroom. For more information, call Karen Wilson at 226-4630.

■ **We Care Carnival** — February 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mutsu and Tohoku clubs. Admission is: adults \$7, children six to 12 years old - \$3, children under five years old - free.

■ **Pizza Scavenger Hunt** — Feb. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Mokuteki conference room, for students in grades 9 through 12. Sponsored by the base chapel.

■ **Boys II Men in Concert** — Feb. 9 at 5 p.m. in Morioka at the Iwate Sangyobunka Center. Sign up with Four Seasons Travel by Thursday. Tickets range from 6,800 to 7,800 yen.

■ **Stress Management** — Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 1000.

■ **Birth To 12-Month Playgroup** — Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. in Bldg. 94.



Richard Bong Theater

Today — "NARC" (R) Jason Patric and Ray Liotta, 7 p.m. "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Saturday — "Jonah - A Veggie Tales Movie" (G), 1 p.m. "NARC" (R), 7 p.m. "Star Trek: Nemesis" (PG-13) Patrick Stewart and Jonathan Frakes, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday — "Tuck Everlasting" (PG) Alexis Biedel and Ben Kingsley, 1 p.m. "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" (PG-13), 5 p.m.

Monday — "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" (PG) Nia Vardalos and John Corbett, 7 p.m.

Tuesday — "Friday after Next" (R) Ice Cube and K.D. Aubert, 7 p.m.

Wednesday — "Half Past Dead" (PG-13) Steven Seagal and Morris Chestnutt, 7 p.m.

Thursday — "The Emperor's Club" (PG-13) Kevin Kline and Steven Culp, 7 p.m. **Feb. 14** — "Just Married" (PG-13) Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy, 7 p.m. "Catch Me if You Can" (PG-13) Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks, 7 p.m.

■ **Editor's note:** Movie lineup and starting times are subject to change.



Photo by Anna Flowers

NEO training

Unit noncombatant evacuation operation coordinators receive training at Misawa's Family Support Center. The next training will be Feb. 7 from 8 to 10 a.m. Call Maj. Barbara Severson-Olson if you're a unit NEO coordinator and have not had this training. For more information on any activity at the FSC, call 226-4735.

35th Fighter Wing Chapel



Catholic Services

Daily Mass — Mondays through Thursdays at noon

Sunday Masses — 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Sunday School — Sundays at 11 a.m. (at Sollars Elementary School)

Confessions — First and third Mondays at 11 a.m. and second and fourth Mondays at 7 p.m.

Protestant Services

Holy Communion — Sundays at 8 a.m.

Sunday School — Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (at Sollars Elementary School)

General Protestant — Sundays at 11 a.m.

Inspirational Worship — Sundays at 2 p.m.

Contemporary Worship — Sundays at 6 p.m.

Jewish Services

First and third Fridays of every month from 7 to 9 p.m.

Islamic Services

Fridays at noon

Seventh Day Adventist Services

Saturdays at 10 a.m. at Security Hill Chapel.

Hindu Study Group

First Friday of month from 11 a.m. to noon. Every other Friday of month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Contact numbers

Main chapel — 226-4630

After duty hours — 226-6648

Security Hill — 226-3064

Schedules**Girls Basketball**

Today Edgren vs.
Perry at 5 p.m.
Today Edgren vs. E.J.
King at 7 p.m.
Saturday E.J. King vs.
Perry at 10 a.m.
Saturday Edgren vs. E.J.
King at 12:30 p.m.
Saturday Edgren vs.
Perry at 2:30 p.m.

Timeout

■ **Volleyball Showdown** — The First Four hosts a volleyball showdown today at 1 p.m. at Potter Fitness Center. Teams representing the First Four, Focus 5/6, Top 3, and company and field grade officers will be participating.

**Northern Light
Game Highlights**

■ Intramural, varsity, youth and high school coaches can fill in the sections below to highlight their team's key plays and players.

Sport: _____

Team name: _____

Coach's name and daytime telephone number(s): _____

Opponent: _____

Outcome/final score: _____

Day, date and time of game: _____

Location of game: _____

1. What was the greatest factor that determined the game's outcome and why?

2. Where did your opponent pose its greatest challenge and why?

3. Who were your most valuable players and why?

4. Was there a turning point in the game, and how did it influence the outcome?

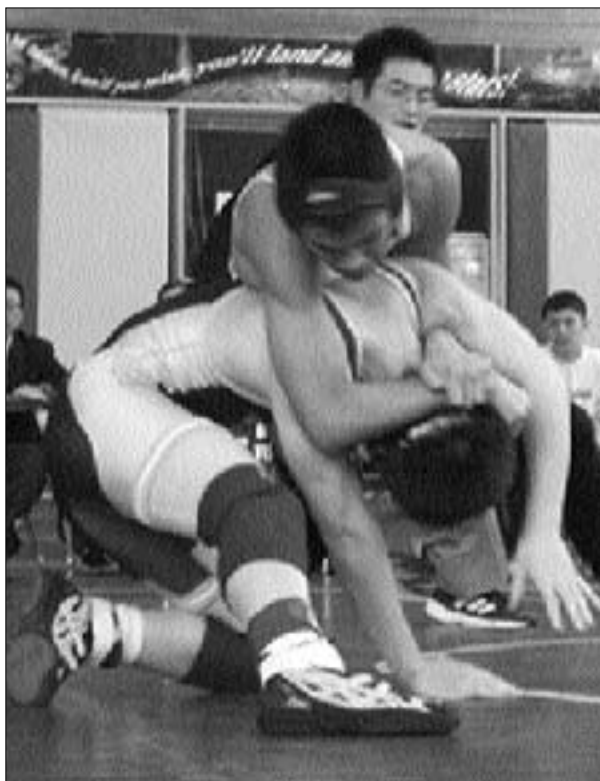
■ Once complete, fax the information to the newspaper office at 226-9342, e-mail it to northern.light@misawa.af.mil or hand carry it to the newspaper office in Room 28 of Bldg. 504 (35th Fighter Wing Headquarters on Risner Circle).

■ For more details, call 226-3814.

No holds barred at Edgren's wrestling tournament

Story and photos by
Rayburn Burns

Edgren High School wrestling coach



The Edgren High School wrestling team hosted six Department of Defense and two local Japanese high school teams to compete in Misawa's wrestling tournament held Feb. 1. Sixty-five wrestlers competed for first place in 12 different weight categories.

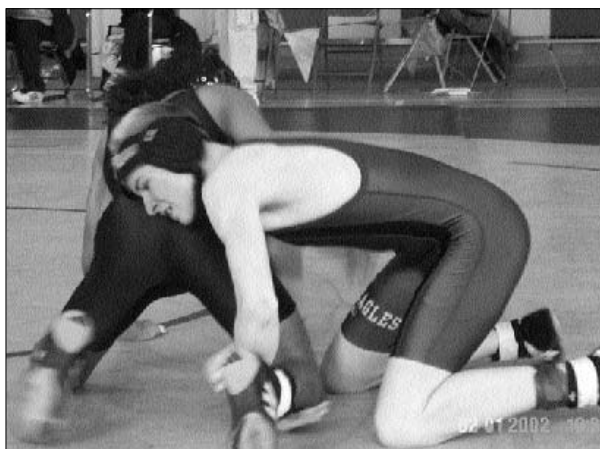
This tournament is the last tournament of the year before the Far East championships held in Okinawa Wednesday and Thursday. Teams competing included Aomori-Japan, Edgren, E.J. King, Kinnick, Noheji-Japan, Yokota and Zama high schools.

With a total of 90 points, Kinnick won the team title with Yokota coming in second with 59 points and both Zama and Noheji placing third with 27 points.

A Yokota High School wrestler cranks a bar half-nelson against his Zama opponent. The Yokota team finished second in the tournament, beat out only by the team from Kinnick High School.

Individual standings are:

Wt.	Place				
101	1) Lee, Louie (E)	129	1) Haney, Dustin (Y)	158	1) Korth, Richie (K)
	2) Moore, Jerry (Y)		2) Waters, Jared (Y)		2) Syuuhei, Hatai (A)
	3) Kim, Jonathan (K)		3) Cardwell, Ken (K)		3) Kessler, Dennis (Y)
	4) Scratch		4) McKinstry, Alex (Z)		4) Knack, Richard (Y)
108	1) Yamauchi, Kouya (N)	135	1) Kosaka, Satoshi (N)	168	1) Tejada, Tairiku (K)
	2) Williams, Kyle (Y)		2) Perez, Jason (EJ)		2) Shunchi, Kobayashi (N)
	3) Bendo, Richard (K)		3) Doughty, Kenji (K)		3) Best, Andre (EJ)
	4) Scratch		4) Cibulka, Yamato (K)		4) Yuuta, Kudou (A)
115	1) Carradine, Jonathan (Y)	141	1) Baily, Jason (K)	180	1) Hopp, Ryan (K)
	2) Buster, Chris (EJ)		2) Smith, Lex (Z)		2) Rienhold, Nic (Y)
	3) Marci, Scott (EJ)		3) Kazuya, Kogawa (A)		3) Boatwright, Cory (K)
	4) Lee, Victor (E)		4) Haney, Nathan (Y)		4) Corpuz, Marco (K)
122	1) Mahaffey, Chase (K)	148	1) Smith, Joel (K)	220	1) Loker, Robert (K)
	2) Garcia, Anthony (Z)		2) Smith, Josh (Y)		2) Rodillon, Din (EJ)
			3) Smith, Reid (Z)		3) Burnett, David (Z)
					4) Vaughan, Jason (Y)



Victor Lee, Edgren High School wrestler, scores on a single-leg takedown during Saturday's tournament. Lee ended the tournament in fourth place in the 115lb. division.